Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Amended). An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) ~~an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-25~~ SEQ ID NO: 9; and

b) ~~a naturally occurring~~ an amino acid sequence having at least ~~90%~~ 95% sequence identity to ~~an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ IDNO: 1-25~~ SEQ ID NO: 9;.

~~c) a biologically active fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-25, and~~

~~d) an immunogenic fragment of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-25.~~

Claim 2 (Amended). An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 ~~selected from the group consisting of SEQ IDNO: 1-25~~comprising SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 3 (Amended). An isolated polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide ~~of claim 1~~ comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) SEQ ID NO: 9; and

b) an amino acid sequence having at least 95% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 4 (Amended). An isolated polynucleotide of claim 3 ~~selected from the group~~ consisting of ~~SEQ IDNO: 26-50~~ SEQ ID NO: 34.

Claim 5 (Original). A recombinant polynucleotide comprising a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide of claim 3.

Claim 6 (Amended). ~~A~~ An isolated cell transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn). A transgenic organism comprising a recombinant polynucleotide of claim 5.

Claim 8 (Original). A method for producing a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) culturing a cell under conditions suitable for expression of the polypeptide, wherein said cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and said recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so expressed.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn). An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

Claim 10 (Amended). An isolated polynucleotide comprising a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) ~~a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ IDNO: 26-50~~ SEQ ID NO: 34,

b) a ~~naturally occurring~~ polynucleotide sequence having at least ~~90%~~ 95% sequence identity to ~~a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ IDNO: 26-50~~ SEQ ID NO: 34,

c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a),

d) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to b), and

e) an RNA equivalent of a)-d).

Claim 11 (Original). An isolated polynucleotide comprising at least 60 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide of claim 10.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn). A method for detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having a sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 10, the method comprising:

a) hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least 16 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and

b) detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn). A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn). A method of claim 12, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

Claim 15 (Original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn). A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional EXMAD, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment the pharmaceutical composition of claim 15.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn). A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn). A pharmaceutical composition comprising an agonist compound identified by a method of claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn). A method for treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of functional EXMAD, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 18.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn). A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn). A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antagonist compound identified by a method of claim 20 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn). A method for treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of functional EXMAD, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 21.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn). A method for screening a compound for effectiveness in altering expression of a target polynucleotide, wherein said target polynucleotide comprises a sequence of claim 4, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising the target polynucleotide to a compound, and

b) detecting altered expression of the target polynucleotide.